

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Inventory of Materials

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Complete statement on For-
mation Co. History of First County
Court sessions of County Seat,
May Term of 1822; early settlers
industries & forts.

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Folder: _____

SELECTION OF THE COUNTY SEAT
OR SEAT OF JUSTICE.

In pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly, we the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of viewing a suitable and fit place for the Seat of Justice for the County of Pocahontas, have agreed to locate the Seat of Justice for said County, on the land of John Bradshaw where an old barn stands in his peach orchard this ~~the~~ 6th day of March,

Abraham McNeel
John Bradshaw
James Tallman
John Jordin
Jacob Warwick
John Basetter.

FORMATION OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

RT Yeager

Pocahontas 40

In the month of March, 1821, the general assembly of Virginia passed a bill entitled "An Act to provide for the formation of a new county out of parts of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph!" Section first of the bill defined the boundaries of the new county, the area of which was 760 square miles. In 1824 the southern boundary line was changed, and 60 square miles was taken from Greenbrier, thus increasing the area to 820 miles, its present area. The same section also declared that the new county should be styled and known as Pocahontas, in memory of, and in honor of the Indian princess of that name. Another section named the place and fixed the time at which the first Court should be held.

THE FIRST COUNTY COURT.

In conformity with the before mentioned act, the first County Court ever held for Pocahontas County, convened at the home of John Bradshaw, at what is now the village of Huntersville, on the 5th day of March, 1822, the day appointed for that purpose. The following justices of the peace, each holding commissions signed by his excellency, Thomas Mann Randolph, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, namely: John Jordan, William Poage, Jr., James Tallman, Robert Gay, George Poage, Benjamin Tallman, John Baxter and George Burner. John Baxter qualified the Court, each member of which took the oath of office, the oath of fidelity to the Commonwealth, the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the oath against dueling. William Poage then in turn administered the several oaths to John Baxter, and the Court was declared open for the transaction of such business as might properly come before it.

John Jordan then presented a commission from the Governor appointing him high sheriff of the county, after which he gave bond in the penalty of \$30,000, with Abraham McNeel and Isaac McNeel as his bondsmen, and took the several oaths prescribed by law. Josiah Beard was then appointed clerk of the Court, and with Thomas Beard, George Poage and James Tallman entered into a bond of \$3,000, took the oaths and at once entered upon the discharge of his duties. John Reynolds was then appointed attorney for the commonwealth. He at once took the oaths and entered upon the discharge of his duties. Sampson L. Mathews was recommended as a fit and proper person to execute the office of surveyor of lands. William Hughes was then appointed constable for the lower district (Little Levels) it being the same bailiwick in which the said William Hughes had served when it was a portion of Bath County. He gave bond in the penalty of \$500, with William McNeel and Robert McClinton as his securities. Then James Cooper was appointed constable whereupon he and his bondsmen, William Slaven and Samuel Hogsett, entered into a bond in the penalty of \$500, conditioned according to law. Cyrus Curry and Johnson Reynolds, having previously been licensed to practice law in the inferior and superior courts of the commonwealth, were, upon their motion permitted to practice law in the courts of the county. On motion the court then adjourned until 10 A. M. the next day.

March 6th, the court convened at Huntersville, and all the